



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for

January 9, 2012

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*"Potomac School equips each student for his/her future
within a culture of excellence that values the small community experience."*

Call to Order

Board Chair Robert O'Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Jeff Hahn, Gary Long and Jim Wrobel. Tim Johnson, principal and Jill Thornton, clerk, were also in attendance.

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda) None.

Consent Agenda

Jim moved to approve the Consent Agenda with the a change to the Minutes, page 2, to show that Bob met with the student council once, not twice, and that Jim, Tim and Nancy also met with the student council. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Inter-District Agreement – Sunset School

The last legislative session opened up the possibility of multi-school board cooperation. This cooperation could be on such things as Field Trips, Standardized Testing, Supplies and Photography contracts. By combining purchasing power, costs could possibly come down for both schools. The state also offered financial compensation for any districts that develop a Multi-District Agreement by April 1, 2012.

Jim moved that Gary and Jim be on a subcommittee along with Tim to represent the school board for discussions with Sunset School on an Inter-district agreement. Jeff seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

This committee will meet with the Sunset School board at their next meeting on January 24, 2012 at 4:30pm.

Principals Report

Community

- Community members will be sought for input on grading philosophy in late January/Early Feb meeting
- Race to Nowhere scheduled for January 19th, 7pm
- Centennial Celebration Steering committee will be formed
- 2nd Annual State of Potomac Address will be held on January 26th:
 - Vision Statement impact:
 - Centennial
 - Goals for out District (this is where we are focusing our time and resources)
 - Highlights on accomplishments in: academics, technology, professional development, athletics,
 - Excellence in learning, in community participation (PTC, Boosters, Potomac Partners, Parents)
 - Potomac Pride celebration this summer? (marathon, carnival partnered with Culley's, Fireworks??)

School

- MAP/AIMSweb testing will be scheduled for late January
- Hand Chimes highlighted in Missoulian!

- National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) has been implemented in science with Mrs Davis' Elective course utilizing physics and Indian Education For All.
- K-8 Holiday Program was a success. Many positive comments
- WOW (Web On Wheels) bus is here every other Tuesday as a book drop-off/pick-up, student/adult tech ed; Bus is operated by the Missoula County Public Library

Activities

- Girls Volleyball beginning in 3rd quarter
- Skiing at Discovery in mid January

Vision Impact

- Screening of "Race to Nowhere" in Potomac will be January 19th 7pm. The first screening has produced a small focus group of 6 individuals in the Missoula area, (two from Potomac, two from Clinton, two from Missoula) in an effort to impact educational practices via research/best practices and common sense.
- Goal Setting Committee has finished its proposal utilizing the school's vision. School staff and community will be working on prioritizing and creating an implementation plan for the goals by the next Board Meeting (February).
- Articles related to grading practice and philosophy are being researched by staff through a recent publication of article from ASCD: Educational Leadership, Nov 2011. November's issues is dedicated to grades, what do they mean, what should they communicate, motivate, etc.

Sports Field

Tim presented the Feasibility Study and Conceptual Plan for the Potomac Community Recreation Complex "The Hub" at the Harvest Dinner. The conceptual plan was posted for the community to view the ideas being presented. Input was requested, and some of the ideas brought up then have been incorporated into the conceptual plan. One of the ideas with the most interest was to include an ice skating rink in the sunken area of the field. The new conceptual plan has that rink. Tennis and Basketball courts were also discussed.

Jim asked about the costs. Tim said that he is working to make sure the cost to the district is 'Net zero'. Between grants, donations and volunteers, the field will develop when costs are covered for the phase being completed. He feels that the community needs to see the project start to get excited about it. We need 'Potomac Pride!'

Jim then asked how we should proceed. Tim recommended that the board approve phase I of the plan.

Jim moved to approve Phase I of the Potomac Community Recreation Complex. Gary seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued and Alicia Vanderheiden, who has worked on the plan and will start writing grants for the project, said that restricting the approved phase to only phase I would restrict the grants available.

Bob then asked for a vote on the motion on the table. **Failed 0-4.**

Jim then moved to approve the conceptual plan, moving forward on development, with all expenditures resulting in net zero cost to the district. Jeff seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

School Goals

Tim will be meeting with the teachers to prioritize the following goals.

- Provide the latest technology hardware and training to our staff and students.
- Address bullying.
- Enhance our outdoor sports programs and community participation through the completion of the Potomac Athletic Complex.
- Celebrate the Centennial of Potomac School (1913).
- Improve the capacity for and increase the use of outside funding/resources to our school.
- Improve student communication skills (written).

- Improve student communication skills (verbal, nonverbal).
- Establish minimum typing fluency benchmarks for students in grades 3, 5 and 7.
- Exceed state proficiency standards (Math, Science and Reading).
- Determine the factors of an effective math program.
- Communicate the factors of an effective math program.
- Increase student participation in all areas related to “their future”.
- Enhance our extracurricular programs
- Integrate critical thinking into all academic and behavioral settings.
- Improve the visibility and communication regarding Potomac School to the broader community.
- Enhance our Fine Arts program.

He will also present the goals at the ‘State of Potomac’ address. After that he will prepare recommendations to present to the board at the February meeting.

School Board – Professional Development

Last Friday, January 6th, Gary visited the school. He also did some research to learn how schools are funded.

Jeff did fundraising with the 8th grade class. That fundraising will continue with a \$2000 couch the class is going to raffle off.

Bob said he appreciates all the effort that is being put into learning about the school.

School Policy Manual

- a) 2nd Reading Policy 3122P4 – Page 1, line 30, remove ‘building administration’ and replace with the term ‘principal.’ Jim moved to approve Policy 3122P4 with the stated changes. Jeff seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**
- b) 2nd Reading Policy 3312 – line 9 & 10, replace ‘administration’ with ‘Principal’, and remove the second period. Jim moved to approve Policy 3312 with the stated changes. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Personnel - Maintenance

Tim recommended that the board approve Natalie Redmond & Cheryl Fredericks as substitute teachers. Jim moved to approve hiring Natalie Redmond & Cheryl Fredericks as recommended pending their background checks. Jeff seconded the motion. **Passed 4-0.**

Grant Writer

With our school funding dropping, Tim would like to pursue the possibility of a grant writer. Jeff asked how a grant writer is paid, as a percentage or a flat rate? Tim said that would be part of the research needed this.

Bob said he has seen good results with grants. Jeff commented on the fact that grants are ‘soft money’. Tim agreed that the money is usually one time only and not an ongoing income.

Tim would like this to be decided on by the February meeting, as spring is a big grant writing time.

Gary asked if there is any research on others doing this, and what the pros and cons are.

